

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, October 27, 1994

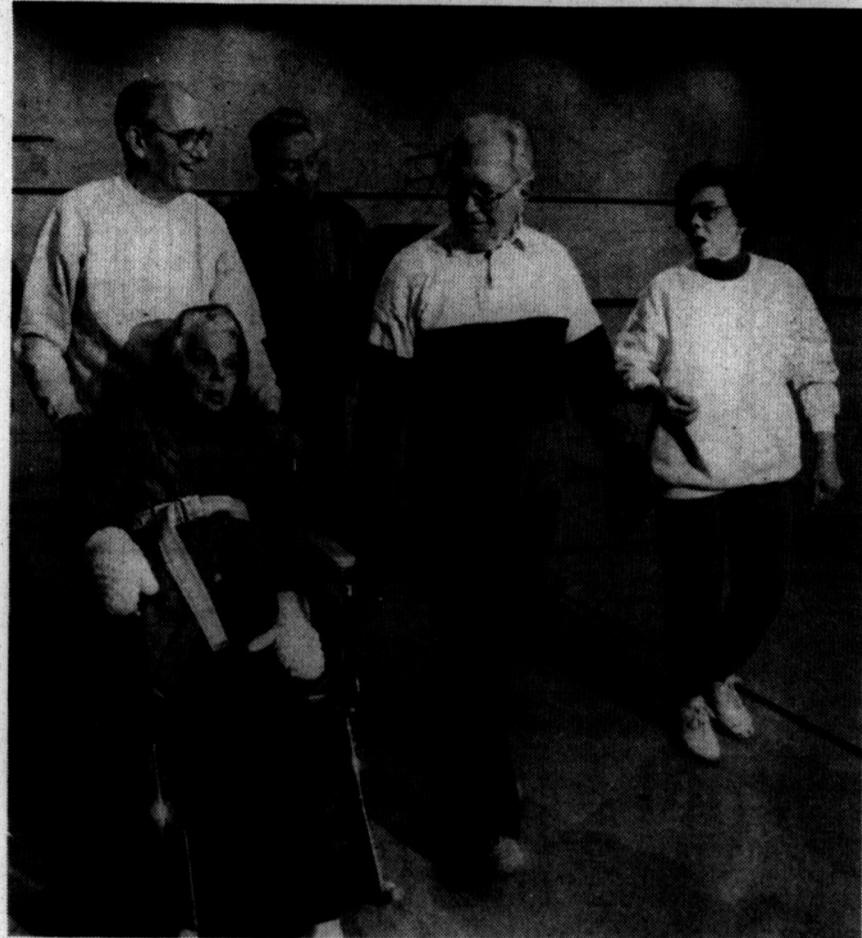
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Low self-esteem is beatable even in winter of life

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Senior adults who suffer from a low self-image can take practical steps even in the winter of their lives to combat their feelings of

unworthiness, the editor of a national senior adult magazine said.

"Sometimes we wonder how in the world we can get to this



ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Jess Hatcher pushes his wife Mary around the track at the Wyatt Park Church gymnasium in St. Joseph, Mo. While Mary's health problems — she suffered two strokes and a heart attack in 1991 — forced the Hatchers to make significant lifestyle changes, they have found help and encouragement from church members and friends. One activity they enjoy is participating in the Senior Adult Walking Club at Wyatt Park. Maurice LaFonte, minister of music and senior adults, said walking club participants "spend a lot of time encouraging and taking care of each other." Also pictured are Bob and Roberta Ward (right), Bob Bowles (center), and Johnny Bowles. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

stage of our lives where we have witnessed so many blessings and still have low self-esteem," Al Shackleford, editor of *Mature Living* magazine, said to a group of senior adults attending a Chautauqua Oct. 17-21 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Shackleford said today's senior adult males grew up associating their self-esteem with their jobs and senior adult females linked it to their families.

"Well, for most of you, both of those are gone. You're retired by now probably, and your children have left the home to start their own lives," he noted.

Shackleford said some senior adults suffer from low self-image because the world doesn't treat them with proper respect. "The world says, 'These people are from another day. They don't know anything about our new technology.'"

As Christian senior adults, Shackleford said they should accept the challenge to see themselves as very important people.

"God created you in his image. He could have created us all with a dull gray finish, with the same eyes, the same weight, the same abilities and interests, but he made us all different. He made us all like him, but with our own stuff. That's important for us to remember wherever we go and whatever we do."

Shackleford offered some practical steps for senior adults interested in working on their self-esteem, including improving the quality of their lives in three specific areas — physical, mental, and spiritual.

He said senior adults should

start by toning up their physical lives. That includes eating right, getting plenty of rest, and regular exercise.

"Our bodies are not as pretty as they used to be and we have a lot of aches and pains. Maybe we can't run marathons, but the main purpose is to keep our body in good order so God can use it for his work," he said.

Eating right means starting off with a good nutritious breakfast, eating a lot of vegetables and fruit, and drinking a lot of water, he said.

Older adults need more rest in their senior years than they did when they were young, Shackleford said.

"You need at least eight hours and maybe more. I know a lot of people like to brag about how little sleep they need, but feeling rested contributes to a higher self-esteem."

As far as regular exercise, Shackleford said nothing can beat walking for its convenience and low cost. "All you need is a good pair of shoes and some loose clothing. As your body feels good, your self-esteem goes up."

Shackleford advised senior adults who live alone to get up and get dressed each morning "to feel better about yourselves."

"Don't go around the house all day in your grungy bathrobe. It's nice to be lazy, but that does something to your self-image. Get up, eat breakfast, take a shower, and put on some nice, bright clothes. You need to care about how you look even if nobody is looking at you."

Shackleford told the senior

adults they could help their self-esteem by exercising their minds.

"You need to set some goals and plans and things you would like to accomplish. That's what keeps us going."

"Remember when you used to say, 'I wish I had time for more Bible study and prayer and devotion'? Well, now you do."

"Keep your mind active. Did you know that 10% of all college students are above 50 years of age?"

Senior adults can help themselves spiritually by spending time in relationships with others and with God, Shackleford said.

"Look around you for mission opportunities. You are givers. You are a generation of people who care for others. Look around and see if there isn't something you would like to do for others in the name of God."

Shackleford listed 10 ways senior adults can build their self-esteem. They are:

1. Conduct a personal inventory listing personal assets, identifying goals, beliefs, liabilities, and specific actions to turn liabilities into assets.
2. Map out a plan. Review your assets, your goals, your beliefs.
3. Just do it.
4. Stop comparing yourself to others.
5. Acknowledge your strengths.
6. Stare down your greatest fear. Admit it, face the fact, recognize it, be hopeful.
7. Get up and get out.
8. Adopt healthy habits.
9. Start giving to others.
10. Renew your vision for your life.

Gaza on upswing

Southern Baptist workers in Gaza are welcoming the sense of normalcy that has settled in since the signing of peace accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Early-evening military curfews, restriction of movement, and fenced-off areas made life in the small strip of land between Israel and Egypt seem, as one Baptist worker put it, like living in a huge cage with 750,000 angry people. The new freedom in Gaza has resulted in many fresh opportunities to share the gospel. Gaza Baptist Church now has 75 people enrolled in Sunday School and is currently searching for an Arab pastor. Southern Baptists in Gaza are asking the Foreign Mission Board for full-time preachers, English teachers, and educators who can train teachers at a school for the hearing-impaired. Temporary assignments in nursing education are also being requested. Southern Baptist Dona Fitzgerald and her physician husband Dean went to Gaza in 1978 while it was under Israeli military occupation. "It's a much happier place [now] to live in...." she said.

Seminarians welcomed

Russian Christians are anxious to improve their worship skills, as professors and students from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., have learned over the past three summers. Three seminary instructors worked at the Moscow Theological Seminary, while the vocal ensemble from the American seminary toured Russia to help Baptist churches hone their music ministries. "The churches in Russia are maturing. The pastors are more concerned with the careful interpretation of Scripture and the relevant communication of the gospel in a changing context," said David Dockery, vice-president for academic administration at Southern. Ensemble director Phillip Landgrave found the Russians eager to explore new music ministry techniques. "They are good musicians. They are diligent musicians," he pointed out. As with past trips, the Americans were impressed with the Christian commitment of their hosts. "I'll never forget those people and the love I experienced there," said ensemble member Lori Elliott. "If someone gave me a ticket, I'd go back today."

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Plans are finalized for an emphasis on the Planned Growth in Giving program during the upcoming Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting as one of the best ways to meet the sweeping goals of Bold Mission Thrust.

20 years ago

Yazoo City native Sibyl Warren, former dean of women at New Orleans Seminary and director of staff activities at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Assembly, is named dean of students at Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

50 years ago

W.A. Roper steps down as pastor of Midway Church, Meridian, after a 58-year ministry career. The Mississippi College and Southern Seminary graduate reports, however, he will be available to preach at least one Sunday a month.

Thursday, October 27, 1994

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Here to stay

Jim Henry, Orlando pastor and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, confessed, "We have brothers and sisters in Christ who have been unfairly judged and labeled because at some point they did not dot every 'i' nor cross every 't'. This intolerance has burned bridges."

Maybe it is time for all of us to confess. It sure sounds better than much of what has been said and written.

Speaking to the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, Henry declared that Southern Baptists need to remember, recommit, and refocus — and there is hope for the future. "Talking with and not shouting" at each other would build upon a platform of cooperation and trust.

The president matches his words with deeds. The ordained Church of Christ minister who has been SBC parliamentarian for eight years was thanked for his services but he would not be

needed in the future. This action did not make all former SBC presidents and Executive Committee members too happy but it was long overdue.

Henry also gave a great push for the Cooperative Program. The giving record of First, Orlando, gives credence to his statement. He called CP the most successful underwriting of missions and evangelism in church history.

October is CP month and our churches needed this encouraging word. We must "push positively, unapologetically, and boldly" the Cooperative Program.

Meanwhile, Keith Parks was speaking in Arkansas declaring the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) is "here to stay." Parks served 13 years as president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board. After philosophical differences resulted in his resignation, he accepted the CBF mission coordinator task. He said there was hope the SBC and CBF "can

co-exist." SBC leaders "are going to try to destroy us but I don't think they can." The CBF now has 52 missionaries; the SBC has over 4,000.

Jim Henry is right. He spoke of a deep love the people have for the Southern Baptist Convention: "That only a few hundred churches of 39,000 have opted out speak of that love and loyalty. But hundreds stand on the brink," said Henry. "They are committed to Christ... yet they desire more openness, more of an opportunity to participate and know that they're heard... we must see that trust is earned again and kept."

Had we sought this with an open attitude a few years ago perhaps there would be no CBF. Neither the CBF nor the SBC is necessarily "here to stay" but the kingdom is. More confessing of our wrong spirit and deeds could result in cooperation and trust. That kind of bridge-building is appealing.

Fletcher, author of SBC book, sees a people of faith and hope

By Charles Richardson

(BP) — Southern Baptists, "for all their biases and weaknesses, are a people of faith and hope," the author of the sesquicentennial history of the Southern Baptist Convention has concluded.

Jesse C. Fletcher, chancellor and Connally professor of missions at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, has written *The Southern Baptist Convention, A Sesquicentennial History* published by Broadman & Holman Publishers and released in September.

"The history is the way we were and how we got to be who we are," Fletcher said in an interview. The 467-page narrative includes one chapter titled "The Battle for the Gavel, 1979-90," detailing the denomination's "conservative resurgence" beginning with the election of Adrian Rogers as SBC president in June 1979.

He described that event as "not the end of a campaign, but the beginning of one," adding: "It soon became obvious this controversy would be different from anything Southern Baptists had experienced."

Recognizing the difficulty of writing a history in connection with controversy, Fletcher wrote in his introduction: "Because of the political climate and the author's determined effort to

Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

"The author of any project of this scope is soon deeply grateful for all who have previously plowed the ground, whether by field or by furrow," he wrote. "While required to go back to many of the same sources and sometimes coming to different conclusions, this author wants to confess his indebtedness to this company."

Fletcher said he found "surprisingly helpful" in gathering material for inclusion in the updated history "unpublished dissertations emerging from graduate studies in seminaries and universities both in and outside Southern Baptist life. These studies not only yielded important perspective but also pointed to key sources."

Official observation of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Southern Baptist Convention will be marked at the 1995 annual meeting in Atlanta, June 20-22.

"I have a strong conviction that any people has to be informed by its own history to be effective and

avoid untrue bias, only materials published or collected in libraries have been used."

He said SBC annuals were "primary" sources for much of the history.

"But, background to this material is crucial to its understanding and is found in Baptist state paper articles, journals, and periodicals, as well as collections of letters and papers of the principal players found in libraries and other repositories," Fletcher added.

Six years in the making, Fletcher said he had a year of getting reader reaction. The book was used as a text in his classes at the HSU Logsdon School of Theology and in church history courses taught by Leon McBeth at

The Spirit of
Southern Baptists 1845-1995

"WE'LL NOT TELL THE CHURCH OF YOUR GENEROSITY — WE DON'T WANT THEM PRAYING FOR YOU WITH MIXED EMOTIONS!"



THE FRAGMENTS

What are we about?

I am always amazed at the lovely churches and cathedrals across the world that have become museums or tourist attractions. This is far from the intention of the Founder of the church.

It is well to take a self-examination as to the purpose of the church — are we fulfilling it?

George Macleod reminds us of what the church ought to be and be about:

"I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church."

"I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on a town garbage heap; at a crossroads of politics so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek... and at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble."

"Because that is where he died, and that is what he died about, and that is where Christ's men ought to be; and what church people ought to be about." — GH

to maintain perspective," Fletcher said.

After reading an advance copy of the manuscript, Southern Baptist statesman Herschell Hobbs said the book "both informs of the past and inspires for the future of the Southern Baptist Convention. Every Southern Baptist should read and reread it and keep it close at hand as a ready reference book."

Fletcher's entire career has

been spent in denominational roles, including 14 years as president of Hardin-Simmons, a Texas Baptist school. Earlier, he was pastor of First Church of Knoxville, Tenn., and worked for 15 years with the Foreign Mission Board.

Richardson is director of media relations, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas; and former editor, North Carolina's BIBLICAL RECORDER.

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Rankin underscores worship as reason for missions

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Worship is the proper motivation for missions, Jerry Rankin, Foreign Mission Board president, told students at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

"The goal of our Lord is that all the nations of the world would worship and exalt him. Because that worship does not yet exist, we do missions," said Rankin who, along with 30 missionaries and FMB staff members, spoke at a global missions emphasis on the seminary's Mill Valley campus Oct. 17-21.

"We're seeing unprecedented

harvest on the mission field," Rankin said, noting more than 262,750 baptisms resulted from Southern Baptist-related missionary efforts last year. "The gospel is not just a message — it is something that is happening."

Golden Gate President William O. Crews welcomed the FMB's partnership with the seminary: "As a seminary where the world has come to live around us, it is fitting to have the Foreign Mission Board on our campus to share in a missions emphasis."

Missionaries and FMB staff members spoke in classes, pro-

vided chapel services, and hosted exhibits and activities. Chapel speakers urged students to respond obediently to God's leading.

"The time to answer the Lord is when he speaks," said Randy Sprinkle, director of the FMB's international prayer strategy office. "But we must decide whether we will follow him whenever, and in whatever he leads."

"God has called each one of us into a wonderful adventure with Jesus Christ," said Fred Dallas, a graduate of Golden Gate

serving in Norway. He was a sports chaplain at the Olympic Games in Spain and in Norway.

The Great Commission is an invitation to carry out God's purpose in the current generation, FMB leaders said.

"Two thousand years ago our Lord told believers to go, and that message comes echoing down through the years to you and me," said Lewis Myers, FMB vice president for "World A" strategies for countries across northern Africa and southern Asia populated with hundreds of people groups who have not heard the gospel or where access to the gospel message is severely restricted.

"If the 'good news' is really good news, then you and I will do all we can to make sure all people everywhere will have the opportunity to respond to it," Myers said. "Our goal is to eliminate World A as defined by access (to the gospel)."

FMB leaders noted remarkable spiritual renewal throughout the world.

"An enormous transformation is taking place," declared Don Kammerdiener, executive vice president at the mission agency. "Something has happened that is making this the most responsive world that the gospel has ever known. The gospel is making an impact as never before."

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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BSSB produces curriculum for "Right from Wrong"

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Baptist Sunday School Board will produce undated curriculum to support widely known speaker and writer Josh McDowell's "Right from Wrong" campaign, according to an announcement by McDowell and board President James T. Draper Jr.

At a meeting of key BSSB leaders Oct. 19, Draper said he hoped the board's decision to produce curriculum and to promote McDowell's Right from Wrong resources, produced by a variety of publishers, will continue to encourage "Christian publishers to work together to do more things." Publishers participating in addition

to BSSB are Word, Inc., Tyndale, David C. Cook, and Star Song.

The campaign was begun in 1993 and is supported by 42 denominational and para-church groups. It has as its goal "to launch a nationwide grassroots effort to resource parents, grandparents, pastors, youth workers, and Christian educators to equip youths to know right from wrong, enabling them to make right choices."

McDowell said he believes youths, including Christian youths, are "growing up in a culture of declining morality."

McDowell said he feels the fact that "youth do not accept biblical moral absolutes" is "the

biggest threat the church has faced in 2,000 years."

With the cooperation of participants from 13 evangelical denominations, including Southern Baptists, McDowell commissioned a research project by the Barna Research Group in which more than 3,700 youths involved in church activities answered 193 questions. McDowell included survey responses in his new book *Right from Wrong*, published this month by Word, Inc.

Among behavior teenagers said they engaged in during a three-month period, the survey demonstrated:

- two of every three participants lied to a parent, teacher, or other adult;
- six in 10 lied to their peers;
- one in three cheated on an exam;
- almost one-fourth had smoked cigarettes or used another tobacco product;
- one in five tried to physically hurt someone;
- one in nine had gotten drunk; and
- almost one in 10 had used illegal, non-prescription drugs.

McDowell's book further reports that while 65% of participants say they pray and 84% say they attend Sunday School and youth group at least once a week, 55% indicated they have engaged in fondling or sexual intercourse by age 18. More than half of the participants responded they are confused and 74% said they are looking for answers.

The church has not adjusted from a Judeo-Christian culture to today's "post-Judeo-Christian culture," McDowell said, noting he believes "parents and pastors need the greatest help in passing on values to our children."



NASHVILLE — Josh McDowell (left), widely known speaker and writer, and James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, jointly announced the board's participation in the "Right from Wrong" campaign. The board will produce undated print curriculum for children, youths, college students, and adults and will distribute resources of other publishers participating in the campaign. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

An Invitation

By Jimmy Porter

On Nov. 1-2, messengers will convene the 159th annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson, to hear reports, study the scriptures, renew friendships, and make decisions that influence the direction and work of our convention.

You are invited to this very special event.

The theme for this year is "Renew a Right Spirit." No one is better qualified to address that subject than Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and co-author of *Experiencing God*. We have granted him multiple opportunities to speak.

Denton Lotz, executive secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, will conclude our convention meeting on Wednesday afternoon by sharing information and illustrations about the mighty moving of God's Spirit in other areas of the world.

You are asked to do three things by the order of business committee:

- Pray for every person who has any part on the program that God will use each one in a powerful and unique way.
- Come to the convention and be present in every session.
- Each Mississippi Baptist church should bring as many messengers as allowed.

Psalms 51:10 (KJV) says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." May God grant us a time of cleansing and renewal on Nov. 1-2.

Porter is chairman of the order of business committee and pastor of First Church, McComb.

Draper's first years of presidency full of change

NASHVILLE (BP) — Change in everything from organization to materials to personnel, delivery systems, and technology has characterized the first three years of his presidency at the Baptist Sunday School Board, James T. Draper Jr. told state Baptist newspaper editors during a recent briefing at the board.

"Change is normal. We expect change," he observed. "But the thing that often exacerbates change is the speed of the change, and we have had some pretty rapid changes during this time that have resulted in anxiety and even feelings that we are operating in the midst of chaos."

"Ministry is our No. 1 priority," he declared. "If a proposed product or service doesn't have ministry potential, then it does not deserve consideration by the Baptist Sunday School Board. If something would be very profitable but doesn't enable or facilitate ministry, we shouldn't do it."

He said while the board will not provide displays at Cooperative

Baptist Fellowship meetings, "we will aggressively seek to serve.... all Southern Baptist churches."

In financial matters, Draper told editors the board anticipates increased revenue this year, while operating at a small loss. He said he anticipates a similar financial picture for the coming year, improved profitability in 1996, with "a solid year in revenue gains and in profitability" for 1997.

He said investments in the past year have included research and changes related to curriculum changes and a point-of-purchase computer system for Baptist Book Stores, among other investments expected to provide benefits for the future.

Like state Baptist newspapers, Draper observed, the board operates in an increasingly competitive environment. He cited other publishers, declining customer brand loyalty, churches that buy for attendance rather than enrollment, a declining trend in reading, and the time demands on people among competitive factors.

to Know . . .



Everybody Ought
Who Jesus Is

**ROYAL
AMBASSADOR**
WEEK • NOVEMBER 6-12, 1994

Brotherhood's Frank Black, state native, dies

MEMPHIS (BP) — Frank Black, an employee of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission for 29 years who wrote the Royal Ambassador Pledge still in use, died Oct. 21 in Memphis. Services were held Oct. 22 in Okolona.

Black, 75, suffered heart fibrillation Oct. 14. He slipped into a coma and did not recover.

"We have lost a giant in the field of missions education for boys," said James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission. "The number of boys and young men who have been influenced by Frank's work is absolutely beyond counting. His family and

loved ones are very much in our thoughts today.

Black joined the Brotherhood Commission May 1, 1955, as an assistant to Edward Hurt Jr., who was associate secretary in charge of Boy's Work.

Black was born in Calhoun County and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He was a district Boy Scout executive in Brookhaven before joining the Brotherhood Commission.

He is survived by his wife Agnes; a son, Robert; and a daughter, Betty Green.

Sex education has failed, magazine article states

BOSTON (ABP) — Comprehensive sex education, the educational "fad of the hour" mandated in 17 states and supported in 30 more, has failed, according to an article by Barbara Dafoe Whitehead in the October 1994 *Atlantic Monthly*.

Whitehead, vice president of the Institute for American Values in New York City, gained national prominence for an earlier article for the magazine contending "Dan Quayle was right" about his criticism of media for glorifying non-traditional families.

Whitehead's latest foil is comprehensive sex education, advocated by Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders and the educational and health community and criticized by conservatives and religious groups which advocate abstinence-only training for teenagers.

Proponents of comprehensive sex education — which begins in

kindergarten and lasts through high school — contend the approach is "reality-based." Given the statistics on increased sexual activity at younger ages, the traditional call for teenagers to abstain from sex no longer works, they say. Their solution is to educate teenagers about sex and to provide them the resources they need to minimize pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

But, Whitehead says, "What sex educators are offering now is training in sexual survival. Once the kids have been equipped with refusal skills, a bottle of body oil, and some condoms, 'reality-based' advocates send them into the world to fend for themselves. Perhaps that is the best protection that today's school and health leaders are able to offer from a harsh and predacious sexual environment. But it is not realism. It is retreat."

Analyst says emerging trends include economic golden age

NASHVILLE (BP) — Emerging trends suggest the United States may be moving into an economic "golden age," according to a leading expert in monitoring societal trends.

Arnold Brown, chairman of Weiner, Edrich, Brown Inc. of New York City, an issues management firm, told Baptist Sunday School Board managers and professional employees in an Oct. 11 briefing: "I've not come to bring you gloom and doom. I've come to share good news."

He overviewed 12 emerging trends, a list he emphasized was not exhaustive. Religious institutions such as the BSSB and individual churches must understand emerging issues to effectively meet the needs of people coping with their impact on daily lives, he said.

"In my opinion, the United States is best positioned to deal with the emerging world," Brown said. American individuals and institutions generally tend to welcome new ideas, value creativity and innovation, and have a societal ideal the world desires to emulate. In addition, he said the nation has the best system of higher education and American culture has become truly global.

However, he cautioned that, if the economic wealth is not properly managed, the country could become a two-tiered society of "haves" and "have nots."

The most significant trend on the horizon is a "thrust toward democratization," Brown said. "More and more power is shifting to individuals (voter, employee, consumer) because they have

more choices. As a result, the individual is more fickle, less loyal," he said.

This trend represents a "constant challenge to institutions that must earn consent every day," Brown said. It is accompanied by a "growing skepticism" of institutions.

For the BSSB and individual churches, Brown suggested: "Listen very carefully to your constituents, find out what they need, and how you can help them. In times of great change, there is virtue in standing for things that don't change."

He also noted a trend toward increased emphasis on religion and spirituality. However, he emphasized it will "not necessarily translate into greater church attendance."

This trend includes a "revolt against modernity," a "desire for faith in something," an "increased focus on morality and ethics in everyday life," and "increased activism on the part of religious institutions in our society."

As the end of the millennium approaches, Brown predicted an increase in the number of religious cults.

Brown cited a decline in optimism, a trend he predicted will be temporary.

"When there is a sense of massive upheaval, people tend to become gloomy and pessimistic," he noted. "There is a perception, primarily by the middle class, that they are victims of what is taking place."

Brown said trends both toward globalism and fragmentation represent apparent contradictions

running parallel with each other in society. On the one hand, technology eliminates borders while, on the other, people are seeking to affiliate with small groups organized on the basis of race, community, or common interest.

Brown said the role of financial institutions in society is greatly increasing. By the year 2000, financial institutions, especially pension funds, will own more than 50% of the stock of Fortune 500 companies.

In a trend he called "megamorphosis," Brown said institutions are undergoing radical restructuring that is accompanied by an end of the employee entitlement era. Employees must assume responsibility for their own well-being rather than expecting their employer to provide benefits such as regular raises, pensions, insurance, and even job security.

Institutions today also are finding they have a wider range of competition.

Finally, Brown said, in the midst of today's complex world in which 50% of people who own VCRs don't know how to program them, "a significant portion of the population is looking for greater simplicity in their environment."

The massive amount of change accompanying these trends, Brown said, "will lead to a new kind of person who will function well in this environment, a person capable of change."

While the world of the future may be very different and accompanied by constant and radical change, Brown said it "also may be very much better."

Pro-lifers welcome demise of health plans with abortion

By Tom Strode

of health care.

After months of often-strident public debate on President Clinton's proposal and other versions, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D.-Maine, announced Sept. 26 he had given up on passing health care reform this year. Neither the Senate nor House of Representatives voted on passage of any version.

"As far as I can tell, there has not been consideration given to the role abortion played in the demise of health care reform," Smith said. "While it was not the primary factor, the inclusion of abortion was nonetheless a critical factor in the failure of congressional leadership to move reform legislation. This was especially true in the House, where there was a determined group of members who consistently maintained their opposition to health care reform as long as it included abortion on demand."

"The fact that health care reform, as well as the Freedom of Choice Act and repeal of the Hyde Amendment, is not law today is a

result of an uprising of grassroots Americans against these assaults on the sanctity of human life," Smith said.

"The abortion lobby made health care reform its No. 1 priority because it properly understood that Bill Clinton's vision of health care reform would be essentially a backdoor passage of FOCA and repeal of the Hyde Amendment."

FOCA, which would have struck down state regulations on abortion, never received a vote on the floor of the Senate or House. Last year, Congress upheld the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits Medicaid funding of most abortions, despite repeal attempts by the Clinton administration.

"When I addressed Congress a year ago, I said our journey to health care reform would have some rough spots in the road. Well, we've had a few. But this journey is far, far from over," the president said in a prepared statement.

Strode is director of media & news information, SBC Christian Life Commission.

SWBTS trustees herald beginning of Hemphill era

DALLAS (BP) — Southwestern Seminary trustees heralded the beginning of the Ken Hemphill era, Oct. 17-18, hailing a spirit of prayer and revival on campus and hearing their new president say his first three months on the job had been the "most challenging and invigorating" of his life.

In their first regular meeting since they fired President Russell Dilday Jr. last March, trustees heard upbeat reports from various areas of campus life, elected the seminary's first full-time female faculty member in the school of theology, and scheduled Hemphill's inauguration for May 1, 1995, at Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth.

In other business, the trustees:

- responded to two motions from the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention, agreeing to decline to receive funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and doubling the amount of tuition a student will pay if his church of

membership does not support the Cooperative Program.

— heard reports that the seminary finished its 1993-94 fiscal year in the black, with a \$401,000 surplus in spite of being denied \$200,000 from the CBF, and will receive \$435,000 — \$100,000 for program and \$335,000 for capital needs — because Southern Baptists over-subscribed the SBC Cooperative Program budget;

— voted to establish three new professorial chairs: the W.A. Criswell Chair of Expository Preaching, named for the senior pastor of First Church, Dallas; the James T. Draper Jr. Chair of Pastoral Ministries, named for the president of the Baptist Sunday School Board; and the Rebekah Naylor Chair of Missions, named for the Southern Baptist missionary physician in India and daughter of retired seminary president Robert E. Naylor;

— affirmed the board's by-laws requiring academic freedom

in the classroom.

Karen O'Dell Bullock became the first woman elected to the faculty when the trustees elected her as assistant professor of church history. She currently teaches on the adjunct faculty as have other women, but none heretofore have been elected faculty members.

Bullock, 41, is a graduate of the University of North Texas and has earned master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees at Southwestern. She and her husband, who heads security for a Fort Worth firm, are members of Southcliff Church, Fort Worth. Bullock's appointment is effective Aug. 1, 1995.

Hemphill cited concerns raised by some trustees about Bullock's position on the faculty, noting it was in church history, not theology, and that she had assured him that she was under the authority of the seminary president as a faculty member and her husband in her home.

Southeastern trustees establish new college & degree programs

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Southeastern Seminary trustees established the Southeastern Baptist Theological College (SEBTC), approved a new master of divinity with church planting degree, and took initial steps toward a doctor of philosophy degree during the board's biannual meeting Oct. 10-11 in Wake Forest, N.C.

Trustees also adopted a land-use master plan for 300 seminary-owned acres and elected three professors to the faculty.

Gerald Cowen, professor of pastoral ministries and church leadership at the seminary, was elected to serve as dean of the newly established college. He said the new college may open as early as January. Along with a major in biblical studies, the college will also direct the seminary's associate of divinity degree program.

The trustees' land use task

force, which was established last March to study development and marketability of 300 seminary-owned acres, brought a report and motion that led to the most lengthy discussion of the board meeting.

Responding to trustee questions, SEBTC Vice President for Internal Affairs Paul Fletcher said, "The land use plan will guide our thinking as we seek to gain maximum value for the seminary's assets. It is both visionary and creative; it puts our school in a win-win situation."

The concept of the report was accepted with the understanding each phase of the project would be reviewed and approved by the trustees.

In his presidential report to trustees, President Paige Patterson said his goal for long-term enrollment is "2,000 by 2000," meaning the seminary will have 2,000 students by the year 2000.

He said, "I don't want to overemphasize numerical goals, but we do want to train a generation of men and women who are surrendered to the cause of Christ and who will achieve the most important goal of this seminary — revival on the East Coast and around the world."

Newly elected trustee officers are Dan Johnston, chairman, pastor of Jonesville (S.C.) Church; Bill Bowyer, vice chairman, pastor of Rock Hill Church, St. Louis; Ken Stevens, secretary, pastor of First Church Green Oak Township, Brighton, Mich.; and Charles Waller, treasurer, pastor of Fork Church, Bumpass, Va.

In other business, trustees:

— elected three professors to the seminary faculty: Logan Carson, who formerly taught at Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C., as professor of theology for the seminary and the college; David Puckett, formerly a professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, as associate professor of church history; and David Sinclair, most recently director of conference programs for The Navigators, Colorado Springs, Colo., as assistant professor of preaching and speech.

— were advised Stephen J. Andrews, instructor of Old Testament and Hebrew, and John L. Davis, instructor of church music, will shortly receive their doctoral degrees and trustees may be asked to elect them to the faculty by mail ballot.

— noted Shawn Madden, SEBTC librarian, has been given a presidential appointment to teach introductory Old Testament in the seminary's new college.

Futral preaches Layne Lectures at NOBTS

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "It would do us well to get alone with the Lord and say, 'I want you to set the priorities of my life,'" James Futral told students and faculty at New Orleans Seminary.

Speaking during the seminary's annual Layne Lectures, the chairman of the executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board said, "Maybe, just maybe, Jesus wants to do something wonderful in your life today."

Jesus is often limited in modern-day churches, as he was in his

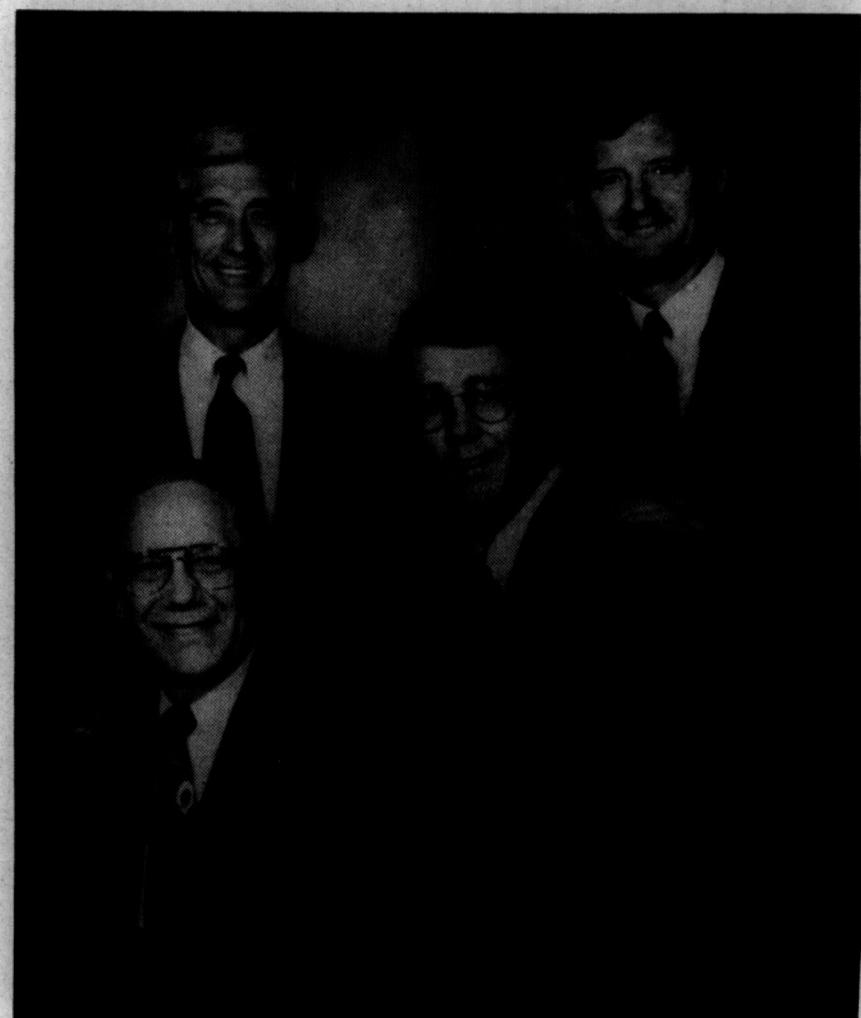
own hometown, by hearts full of unbelief, Futral said. Ministers need to "make Christ the focal point, the driving force, the priority of your life."

"In our busy lives, when we have goals to reach, places to be, and things to do," said Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, "we must always remember to take time to stop and minister to those people whom God has placed in our lives."

"Ask God to make a difference in you so you can make a difference in the world."

Thursday, October 27, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Pastors' Conference personalities

The Doctors Four quartet will be on program during the Pastors' Conference at First Church, Jackson, Oct. 31, just prior to the beginning of the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Other personalities will include Phil Walker, pastor of Ridgecrest Church, Madison; Billy Smith, Jackson evangelist; Jim Phillips, pastor of North Greenwood Church, Greenwood; Stephen Kirkpatrick, wildlife photographer of Jackson; Perry Sanders, pastor of First Church, Lafayette, La.; Jess Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Los Angeles; and Laurel native and actor Tom Lester of Beverly Hills, Calif. The conference will begin in the First Church sanctuary at 1:30 p.m. and conclude at 8:50 p.m. Randall Turner, pastor of First Church, Laurel, is conference president; Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, is vice president.

Midwestern Seminary trustees pick search committee members

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Trustees of Midwestern Seminary adopted a presidential search process and elected a seven-member search committee during their semiannual meeting, Oct. 17-18, in Kansas City, Mo.

The newly adopted procedures stipulate the chairman of the trustee board will serve as chairman of the presidential search committee. That position currently is filled by Lewis Adkison, senior pastor of Circle Drive Church, Colorado Springs, Colo.

The other search committee members include: Tim Harvey,

pastor, Dayspring Church, Byron, Ga.; Tony Mattia, pastor, Trinity Church, Wamego, Kan.; Richard Proctor, attorney and municipal court judge and member of Wynne Church, Wynne, Ark.; Ronnie Rogers, pastor, Lakeside Church, Hot Springs, Ark.; Stoney Shaw, pastor, Living Water Community Church, St. Louis; and Dennis Wood, pastor, First Church, Mill, Tempe, Ariz.

Milton Ferguson will retire as president of the seminary in July 1996. Midwestern, established in 1957, has had only two presidents in its history.

Luther Rice alums to gather during convention meeting

Luther Rice Seminary Alumni Association will hold its annual meeting on Nov. 1 in the Mississippi Room of Primos Northgate Restaurant in Jackson. The 5:30 p.m. gathering takes place during the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

James Flanagan, president of the seminary, will be the guest speaker. Dinner from the menu will be served following the program.

For more information, contact Gregg Thomas in Leakesville, (601) 394-5125.

Persistence of mass hunger a moral challenge, report says

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The earth's inhabitants possess the ability but lack the will to end massive hunger, according to the Bread for the World Institute's fifth annual report on global hunger, released Oct. 13 in Washington.

Despite overall improvement in world hunger, "there is still a wide gap between humanity's professed moral values and our collective action," the report says. "The persistence of mass hunger is, at its root, a moral and religious challenge."

The 1994 report identifies and focuses on the root causes of hunger: powerlessness, violence, poverty, environmental destruction, and discrimination.

The report indicates:

— hunger has decreased globally while increasing in the

United States;

— 20% of the people in the developing world are chronically undernourished;

— more than 1 billion people are too poor to afford an adequate diet;

— more than one-third of the world's people lack the vitamins and minerals they need to lead productive lives;

— one out of every five U.S. children lives in poverty; and

— an estimated 30 million Americans cannot afford to buy enough food to maintain good health.

The proportion of undernourished people across the globe dropped from 36% in 1970 to 20% in 1990. But in some areas hunger continued to grow: notably Africa, some countries that are struggling through the transition from com-

munism and the United States.

In Africa, almost one-third of the children under age 5 are undernourished. In Bosnia, nearly 3 million people are at risk and dependent on United Nations rations. And between 1985 and 1990, the number of Americans who lacked sufficient food sources grew by 50%, from 20 million to 30 million — including 12 million children, the report says.

However, significant gains in regions such as the Asian-Pacific have more than offset the worsening picture in other areas.

In the last 20 years, the undernourished proportion of the population in South and Southeast Asia has dropped from one-third to 24% in South Asia and 17% in Southeast Asia. In China, the rate improved even more dramatically, dropping from nearly 50% to 16%.

Grisham recounts faith decision at Ark. Southern Baptist church

OXFORD (BP) — When he was eight years old, John Grisham made a public profession of faith in a Southern Baptist church, he recounts in the Oct. 3 issue of Christianity Today.

In the two-page interview, Grisham, whose most recent novel The Chamber and four previous novels have passed 40 million in sales, replete with movie deals, tells of his Baptist upbringing, his interest in missions, and the questions he deals with as his success mounts. The interview was conducted by Will Norton Jr., dean of the college of journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Of his profession of faith, Grisham states, "I was eight years old. We lived in Arkansas at the time. Back then, my father often worked seven days a week. My mother had us bathed and scrubbed and in church every Sunday."

"She's a devout Christian. I came under conviction when I was in the third grade, and I talked with my mother. I told her, 'I don't understand this, but I need to talk to you.' We talked,

and she led me to Jesus.

"The following Sunday I made a public confirmation of my faith. In one sense, it was not terribly eventful for an 8-year-old, but it was the most important event in my life. It did not readily change me, but it was very real nonetheless."

Grisham says his family moved every year or two because his father worked for a construction company.

"The first thing my family did when we moved was join the local Southern Baptist church," Grisham says. "The second was to go to the public library and get library cards." The family lived in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Of his interest in missions, Grisham notes, "During my childhood in the Baptist church we would hear wonderful stories and see slides from all over the world. I always wanted to take part in mission work and never really was able to do it for the 10 years I was busy practicing law."

"Finally, I was able to go to Brazil last year with about 40

other people from this country. We went to a remote area of the country and built a church in four days. We took two doctors, a dentist, and a couple of nurses with us: two or three medical teams."

Grisham recounts the impact the death of one of his best college friends had on him a few years after they had graduated from Mississippi State University.

"I was in law school, and he called me one day and wanted to get together. So we had lunch, and he told me that he had terminal cancer," Grisham says. "I couldn't believe it. I asked him, 'What do you do when you realize that you are about to die?' He said, 'It's real simple. You get things right with God, and you spend as much time with those you love as you can. Then you settle up with everybody else.' That left an impression on me."

He says one of the reasons for his success could be that his books are "relatively clean" and people realized they could give one of his books "to an older teenage son or daughter or to their parents. I hope it says something about our culture that you can be successful without succumbing to all the gratuitous sex and language that is so prevalent today."

Of his success, Grisham states, "I go for long walks in the woods a lot, and I ask myself if I'm handling it the way it ought to be handled. I don't know why it happened to me. God has a purpose for it. We are able to contribute an awful lot of money to his work, and maybe that's why."

"But I firmly believe it will be over one of these days — five years from now, 10 years from now. The books will stop selling for whatever reason. All this is temporary."

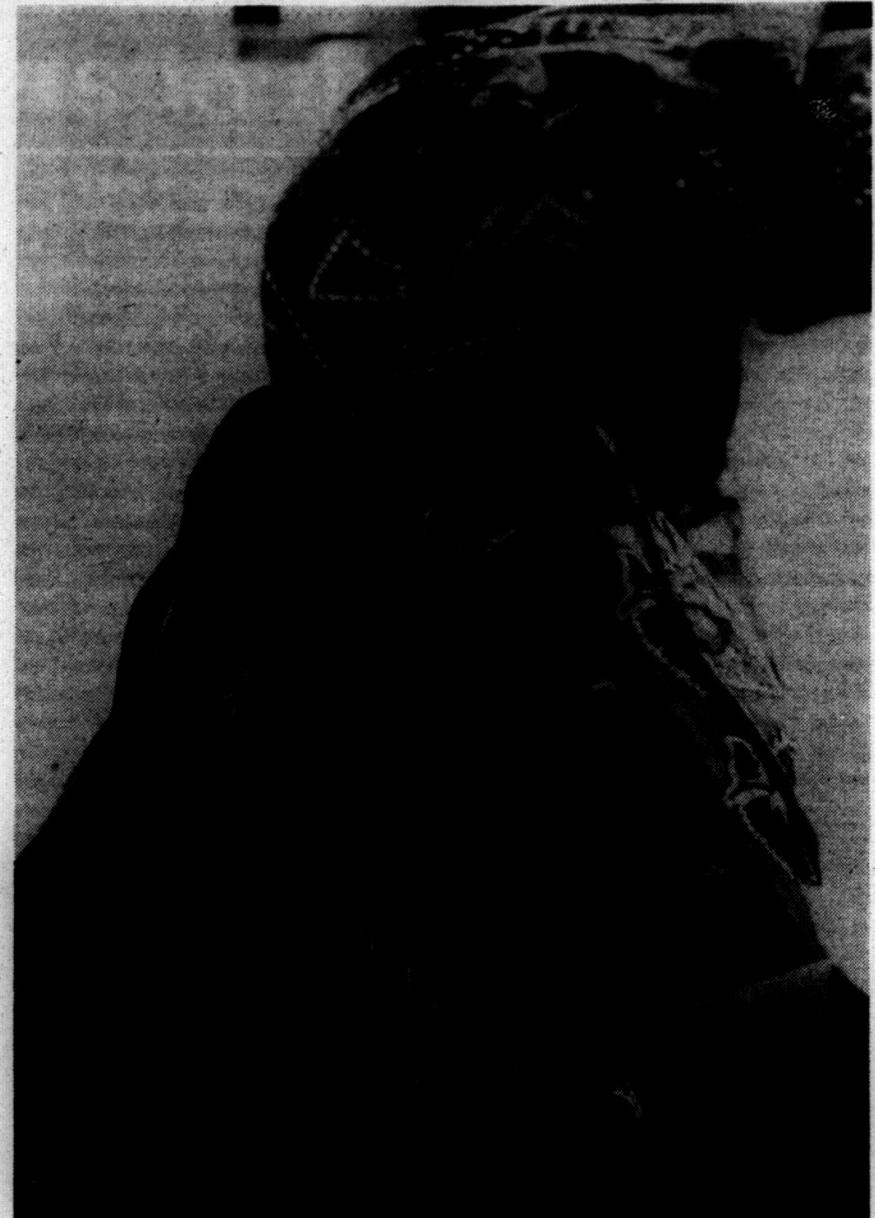
William Carey College receives USDE grant

William Carey College has received a record setting grant under the Strengthening Institutions Program of Title III from the U.S. Department of Education, WCC President Jim Edwards, Senator Trent Lott, and Congressman Gene Taylor announced recently.

The grant for fiscal 1995 is \$349,000 which is part of a five-year plan by the college totaling \$1.6 million. The 1995 allocation began Oct. 1.

"This is the largest grant in the history of William Carey College," said Edwards. "The grant funds will enable us to purchase new computer hardware and software packages which will support improved teaching and student services on our three campuses in Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and New Orleans."

Edwards credited Bill Payne, vice president of institutional effectiveness and coast campus, with securing the grant.



A HELPING HEART — Individual Southern Baptists, like the nurse at right, work for various aid groups in Somalia, bringing desperately needed assistance to the country. This nurse — not identified for her own safety in this dangerous land — was scheduled to spend a year in the African country when this photo was taken in 1993. (BP photo by Melissa Bird)

Prayer intervention halts Christian-killing

IN SOMALIA (BP) — The killing has stopped. For now.

In March suspected Muslim extremists assassinated one of the leaders of the small group of Christians in Somalia — gunning him down as he walked to work.

On a single day in September, three more Christian believers were shot to death. The following day a list of 120 "Christians" purportedly scheduled for elimination was publicly circulated — in a city where optimistic estimates put the total number of believers at between just 50 and 75.

"How do you respond, in Christ, to 'hit lists' and the possibility that most of your Somali brothers and sisters in Christ living in that environment may die?" asked a Christian who works closely with the Somali believers.

"What's the strategy, the plan? How do you stop the killing, protect your people, and cling to your faith in a loving powerful God?"

He answered himself: "You drop to your knees in prayer."

But not in isolation. He and his wife called the Foreign Mission Board with the message, "They are killing off all our believers."

The mission agency's prayer strategy office got involved immediately.

"Within 24 hours we will have hundreds of Christians interceding

on behalf of the Somali believers," the office promised. "Within a few days we will mobilize thousands of prayer warriors. Tell our Somali brothers and sisters of our eternal love and support."

Then the killing stopped.

"There's no explanation other than divine intervention," the worker insisted.

Indian Springs marks 140th

Indian Springs Church, Jones Association, will celebrate its 140th anniversary on Nov. 12-13. Tagged "Christian Heritage Celebration," activities will begin Saturday at 2 p.m. with games and displays and will conclude at 8 p.m. with a meal.

On Sunday, a 9:30 a.m. reception will be held for former ministers. Following the morning worship service, there will be dinner on the grounds.

The afternoon service will begin at 1 p.m. and conclude at 4:30. It will include testimonies, singing, and memorabilia of the church's history. There will be no night services.

For more information, contact the church at (601) 428-1279. Buddy Keyes is pastor.



Letters to the editor



Lauds MC trustees

Editor:

As an alumnus of Mississippi College, I commend the trustees for their recent action in attempting to safeguard the college from the vagaries of denominational politics. Unfortunately, the end of the long struggle for control of the Southern Baptist Convention does not mean that peace is at hand. Instead, the battle has shifted to the state conventions, and divisive politics at the local level will only intensify. These efforts wreak havoc on institutional stability. The trustees have taken an action which will insure that Mississippi College will not be distracted from its primary mission, that of providing a world-class education for men and women. For both the action itself and the courage behind it, I offer them my heartfelt gratitude.

William J. Ireland Jr., pastor
Briarcliff Church
Atlanta

Consuming ourselves

Editor:

I have noticed that many writers about to expound on the sad state of our nation make the statement that it all began about "three decades ago." True, the moral fabric of America began unravelling at a rapid pace about that time, but the forces that brought it about were in place long before that.

Humanism, that slick philoso-

phy that teaches about anything but the existence of an omniscient, omnipotent deity, has been around since the Renaissance.

Television soon became a must for every living room. It began in the early '60s its insidious implantation of ideas and lifestyles totally foreign to the Christian home.

How pathetically far away our lives are today from those of the first and second century Christians. In fact, I've heard a church leader on more than one occasion say, "I believe the Lord wants us to be comfortable." Find that in the Scriptures, if you can!

Isn't it time that individual Christians become responsible for their actions, as well as seeing to it that their actions are responsible?

Also, that persons be responsible for the actions of the persons for whom they are responsible, especially in the parent-child relationship, but also in the teacher-student area, and in employer-employee relations.

As far as the endless dissension among the hierarchies of our convention goes, I am reminded of the fabled animal who had dined, but still hungry, decided to sample his tail. Finding it tasty, he decided to continue eating until....

J.B. Morgan
Long Beach

Urge organ donation

Editor:

Yesterday's news broadcast reported that there are now more

than 36,000 individuals in this country who are waiting, hoping, perhaps praying, for a major organ transplant. At least nine of these patients will die each day for lack of the life-saving organ which they need.

On the evening of Dec. 16, 1992, I was a patient in the cardiac intensive care unit of Emory University Hospital of Atlanta, hooked to life support machinery, experiencing the last stages of acute heart failure. They called it ideopathic cardiomyopathy, possibly resulting from a virus. I had been placed on the transplant list the previous April, with only 17% function and "considerably less than a year" without a new heart.

My time was fast running out but there were multitudes of God's people praying for me. About 7 p.m., Kirk Kanter, head of Emory's heart transplant program, came into my room with an announcement I shall never forget. He said, "Preacher, we think we've found you a heart!" The procurement team flew to Tampa, Fla., for the heart, which I received early the next morning. Though there have been a number of complications, the surgery was wonderfully successful. I have been able to begin preaching again and am savoring every moment of this second chance to live and serve the Lord.

I was told very little about my donor, but I am tremendously grateful to him and to the family that made the decision to allow their loved one's heart to

become mine.

In 1989 I had decided to list myself as an organ donor on my driver's license, never dreaming that in just a few short years I would be the one needing a transplant. I pray that all of these others who are anxiously waiting will be as fortunate as I am.

We have the technology to save these lives, but not enough awareness and willingness to make the organs available. As one who has gratefully received this gift of life, I urge every caring person to determine that they will be an organ donor in the event of an untimely death. Put it on your driver's license, carry a donor card, and be sure to inform your family members of your wishes. I know that God will bless such a gift!

James E. Pugh Jr.
Walnut Hill, Fla.

Might cause trouble

Editor:

I am 74 years old and was raised going to a little Baptist church here

in Blue Springs.

But in recent years I have seen a practice which looks harmless, but after the opinions I have heard I fear it isn't so harmless after all.

In most churches, after a couple of songs the preacher will ask everyone to go shake hands with someone. But then he will say, "Go hug somebody and say, 'I love you.'"

To this, no one says anything about it in the church. But the comment is made when we leave the church door.

Some people don't like this practice. To some people, it is embarrassing and confusing, and I fear that with these latest laws on molestation, that this practice just might cause trouble for some innocent person who is only showing Christian love.

I think all our preachers should quit promoting and encouraging this hugging in the church. Although it seems harmless to most of us, it just might cause trouble.

Troy E. Leach Jr.
Blue Springs



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LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Four months ago I found out my wife had an affair for over 10 years. She says she's changed but I don't trust her, and I continue to be haunted. How can I overcome the past and forgive her?

I appreciate your sincere desire to do the right thing. You have lost something very precious — trust. When trust is tampered with, it doesn't come back easily. When you lose something precious, you grieve. Give yourself permission to grieve. Granger Westburg in his great book, *Good Grief*, describes the 10 stages of grief. You will find yourself going through those stages in the next 18-24 months. You have known about this affair for only four months, so give yourself time. Your wife must also give you time. Your heart will know when you can trust her again, and a lot will depend on her actions and repentant heart. As you seek what is best, you will find strength to overcome your hurt and forgive her. As she understands the void in her life that was filled by the affair, she will be able to show the love that will sustain the marriage. Both of you should get Christian counseling, or stay in counseling if you're already there. You should also find a group of men who will hold you accountable and pray for you through the coming

months. They can hold you up when you are about to cave in.

My 15-year-old granddaughter is sexually involved with her boyfriend. Both sets of parents are separated. She has had the best possible sexual education at home, church, and school. How do I handle this situation?

Most sexually-involved teenagers are seeking acceptance and love. The media make them believe sex is the way to find all they want, but sexuality was never meant to be the glue that holds a relationship together. When this relationship loses its fire, change will occur and your granddaughter will most likely be devastated. That will be your opportunity to be there for her. With both sets of parents separated, they may be without needed parental involvement and so have found each other. Be there! Each child needs at least one adult who is crazy about them, so stay in touch with her by sending cards, taking her to lunch, shopping, and spending as much time as possible with her. Look past her sin to her heart and listen for reasons she is acting like this. When the relationship is over and she is lonely again, help her establish some godly boundaries. Pray for the right words to say and the right opportunities to arise.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Names in the News



Dee Mixon (second from left) was recently ordained as deacon by Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale. He is pictured with (left to right): Jerry Mixon, pastor; Gene Havard, chairman of deacons; Darryl Hurt, secretary; and Jerold O'Neal and Banard Eubanks, deacons.

Emon White, pastor of Rocky Point Church (Leake), will participate in a crusade in Zimbabwe, Africa, Oct. 24-Nov. 10.

Helen Jean Parks, wife of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Missions Coordinator Keith Parks, will speak at a breakfast meeting at the Ramada Coliseum Hotel in Jackson on Nov. 2 at 7 a.m. Mrs. Parks is a former missionary to Indonesia.



Larry Black, minister of music at First Church, Jackson, will lead a church leadership group conference for ministers of music at two national church growth conferences in San Diego, Calif., Feb. 20-23, 1995 and Atlanta, March 20-23. Speakers at the conferences will include O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Dallas; Bob Record, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va.; James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB); and Henry Blackaby, special consultant to the Foreign and Home Mission boards. Cost for either conference

is \$120 per person before Jan. 15. For more information, contact the BSSB at (615) 251-2294.

Ruth P. Goerner, 87, wife of H. Cornell Goerner, retired Foreign Mission Board administrator for work in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, died Oct. 12 in Richmond. Funeral services were held Oct. 15. In addition to her husband, she is survived by three daughters, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

Thomas Frye Day was observed at Dixie Church, Hattiesburg, Sept. 25 in honor of the organist's retirement after 27 years. The celebration activities included a concert by Frye and gifts presented to him by the church. Joe Campbell is pastor.

Mary Cox McCain has entered into a ministry of music and songwriting. She is the widow of J.A. McCain. She can be contacted at Rt. 1, Box 28A, New Hebron, MS 39140; telephone (601) 694-2373.



Louise and Claude Townsend of Florence recently received associate's and doctoral degrees, respectively, from Immanuel Baptist College & Theological Seminary in Peachtree, Ga. Townsend, former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, currently teaches counseling at the college and is pastor of Metro Church, Jackson. The Townsends will soon leave to conduct two-week mission projects in Korea and India.



Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Meredith will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Oct. 30, 2-4 p.m. at the Crossgates Timber II Clubhouse in Brandon. The Meridiths have served in pastorates in Mississippi and Alabama. Friends are invited to the celebration, but the family requests that no gifts be brought.

Just for the Record

Leake Association, in its annual fall meeting, unanimously passed a resolution opposing the state government's sanction of gambling. Gambling, the resolution states, seeks gain at the expense of others and is motivated by selfishness and greed.

Tishomingo Association, in its annual meeting, passed a resolution opposing the sale and use of alcoholic beverages in Tishomingo County. The resolution also opposed the designation of any land area in the county as a "resort" by the State Parks Commission, which would allow alcohol to be sold on those lands.

Paul Truitt Memorial Church, Pearl, will host "Eternity" in concert on Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. For more

information, call Kay Basden at (601) 939-2975.

Roberto Rodriguez, executive director for the Honduras National Convention of Baptist Churches in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, will speak at Sunrise Church, Carthage, on

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Oct. 30 at 11 a.m. Rodriguez' visit to the States is part of the Mississippi-Honduras partnership mission effort.

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Homecomings

First, Nicholson: Oct. 30; bring a picnic lunch; Timothy L. Martin, pastor.

Woolmarket, Biloxi: Oct. 30; 53rd anniversary; 11 a.m.; noon meal in Christian life center; Franklin Boyette (Biloxi), Artie Quave (Saucier), Annie Robbins (Carriere), charter members, guest speakers; afternoon singing; no night services; Randy Rich, pastor.

Oak Grove, Philadelphia: Oct. 30; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall; no night services; Levon Moore, Kosciusko, guest speaker; Lamar and Amy Ethridge, Philadelphia, music; Paul S. Leber Sr., pastor.

Big Ridge, D'Iberville: Oct. 30; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing with Lynn

Rouse; no night service: Mike Priest, pastor.

Maybank, Hattiesburg: Oct. 30; 10:30 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, 11:45; afternoon singing, 1 with Mel Stafford, Hattiesburg; J.C. Mitchell, Columbus, guest speaker: George C. Aultman, pastor.

Good Hope, Lena: Oct. 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon program, 1:30; no night services; James Young, Clinton, missionary to Bangladesh, guest speaker; Gwen South, pastor.

Shady Grove (Lincoln): Oct. 30; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, 1:30; Jerry Bishop, former pastor, guest speaker; Jim Burnett, pastor.

Revival Dates

Alexander Memorial, Hollendale: Nov. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Ron McLain, Shelbyville, Ky., evangelist; Paul Powell, Columbia, music; Michael McLendon, pastor.

Ebenezer (Holmes): Oct. 28-30; Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, homecoming; 11 a.m., noon meal, 7:30 p.m.; James Pugh, Walnut Hill, Fla., evangelist; Skipper Maxwell, music; Billy Barron, pastor.

Castlewoods, Brandon: Nov. 6-9; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Brannon, evangelist; Tuesday, Youth Night; Larry S. McDonald, pastor.

First, Columbia: Nov. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 12 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Roger Freeman, Clarksville, Tenn., evangelist; Phillip Willis, Baton Rouge, La., music; Wayne VanHorn, pastor.

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WANTED: THEATRE STYLE seats — wooden seats, wooden backs — Need approximately 80. If you have any, please call First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, LA. (318) 259-4467.



First Church, Hazlehurst, recently held a recognition service for 10 RAs. Those honored were (left to right): kneeling, Michael Newman, Phil Walker; first row, Chase Davis, Jay Keywood, Clark Little, Eric Walker; middle row, Lucas DeLaRiva, Lee Walker, Brandon Paul Brooks, Jesse Morris; back row, leaders Randy Hankins, Rollin Turnage, and William Little.



Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, recently held a GA/Acteen recognition service. GAs honored were (left to right): front row, Charlee Winborne, Jill Crosby, Jennifer McCaffery, Erin Brown, Kimberly McCaffery, Hannah Roberts, Sunnie Bridges; middle row, Jessica Winborne, Briana Hall, Ronnye Gill, Emily Crosby; third row, Missy Smith, April Wallace, Jenny Davis, Tressie Hall, Robin Hutchinson, and Jodi Moak. Actees who were honored (back row) were: Molly Wooten, Shannon Smith, Lyndie McClelland, and Karen Crosby.

Unity Church, Picayune, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Oct. 30, beginning at 9:45 a.m. A covered dish dinner on the grounds will follow the morning worship service. An outdoor gospel sing will be held at 1 p.m. James W. Hickman of Picayune will be guest speaker. Former staff members will be recognized. Harvey D. "Bud" Putman Jr. is pastor.

Terry Road Church, Jackson,

will observe High Attendance Day on Oct. 30. A goal of 50 has been set for Sunday School. Felix Greer, missionary to Liberia, will be guest speaker. Lunch will follow at noon. Henry Bennett is pastor.

The Mississippi School for the Blind in Jackson will host the Gospel Messengers, the Soul Consolators, the Revelations, and the Watchmen in concert on Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Revival Services

First Baptist Church Quitman, Mississippi

November 6 - 9, 1994

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Sunday
7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday

Dave Busby
Speaker

David Burroughs & Nathan Hanson
Worship Leaders

411 East Franklin Street

(601)776-2184



First Church, Bruce, recently held a recognition service for GAs. Those who participated are (top photo, left to right): front row, fifth graders Laura Wells, Anne McMaster, Brianne Cain, Katie Vaughn, Alex Hurst, Andrea Ferguson, Karia Murphree; middle row, sixth graders Nina Kelly, Brandy Russell, Kellie Ruth, Joanne Bagley, Lauren Hunsucker, Jo Ellen Bailey, Renee Martin; back row, seventh graders Jeanine Ferguson, Emily Christ, Natalie Kelly, Nicole Cain, Candi Deaton, Jennifer Ruth, Leslie Yarbrough, Yancy Cooper, and Tai Bryant. Teachers for the older GAs are Pam Ward, Deb Hardin, Carolyn Deaton, and Kay Ruth.

GAs who received sashes and/or badges in the

recognition service are (above, left to right): front row, second graders Rebecca Beckett, Mary Beth Crumby, Selina Gray, Stephanie Deaton, Leigh McDowell, Charisa Carr, Sandee Harris, Casey Hubbard, Daneka Tedford, Linsey Hunsucker, Andrea Stepp; middle row, third graders Bethany Cole, Nicole Norwood, Kim Wells, Diana Franklin, Christi Carr, Kalon Ferguson, Brittney Vanlandingham, Kelly Murphree; back row, fourth graders Kelsey Tennant, Abby Hillhouse, B.J. Bryant, Jessica Ware, Claire Beckett, Jenna Hensley, and Jessica Edwards. Teachers for the younger GAs are Cindy Ferguson, Sandra Woodall, Michelle Inman, Kerry Parker, Kim Snellings, and Becky Todd. Bobbie Mason is GA director.



Eastlawn and Unity churches, Pascagoula, recently welcomed their combined youth groups upon their return from a mission trip to Hayesville, N.C. A total of 18 youths, along with their six chaperones, helped the Mt. Pleasant Church there conduct

Vacation Bible School (participants pictured above) and community outreach evangelism. The effort resulted in nine professions of faith, reported Tom Miller, Eastlawn pastor. Ray Spence is pastor of Unity Church.

Hope Church, Clay County, has purchased land and now has a small building and two mobile units in which they meet. The church began last Easter and now

has 74 members. Seven deacons have been ordained. In addition, there are seven Sunday School classes and an active Baptist Young Women's group. Barry

Hathcock is minister of music and youth, and Avery Jones is pastor.

County Line Church, Mendenhall, will host a harvest festival on Oct. 29 from 3-5 p.m. Activities will include pony rides, cake walks, and prizes.

William Carey College is hosting an exhibit of etchings and collographs entitled "redux" by Sheila Springer in the Lucile Parker Gallery on campus, Oct. 25-Nov. 18, 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, or by appointment. An opening reception honoring the artist will be held Oct. 27, 5-7 p.m. Call (601) 582-5051 for more information.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Must have Master's Degree in Social Work, 5 years experience in working in counseling and care of children and adults, and abilities in administering large organization and budget. Resumes will be accepted up to Nov. 30, 1994. Please state expected salary range. Enclose recent photograph. Position is in Little Rock, Ark. Effective date of employment: April 30, 1995.

Mail resumes to:

Dr. George R. Wadley, 131 Bristlecone Rd., Searcy, AR 72143



International grads

Students from China, Romania, and Uzbekistan were among recipients of graduate degrees during recent commencement exercises at Mississippi College. Pictured with Edward McMillan, vice president and graduate dean at MC, are Ekaterina Mechetbayeva "Kate" from Uzbekistan, earning an M.A. in English; Sheng-Hao Song "Melody", Shandong Province, China, M.Ed. in English; and Rodica Mocan, Romania, M.A. in art. Not pictured is Hailing Xiao "Shaw," from Beijing, China, who earned an M.Ed. in English.

Paul Nunnery receives child welfare award

Paul N. Nunnery, executive director of the Baptist Children's Village (BCV) 1960-89, recently was awarded the 1994 Samuel Gerson Nordlinger Child Welfare Leadership Award by the National Association of Homes and Services for Children (NAHSC).

The award recognizes individuals who make outstanding contributions to the effectiveness of NAHSC, the field of child welfare, or the national public policy process to advance the cause of quality services for children and families.

MBMC offers activities

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center offers a variety of informational and self-help activities for the general public. Below is a partial list by departments.

The Chemical Dependency Center will offer "Parenting for Prevention and Violence Intervention: A Systemic Approach for Educators," Nov. 4, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and "Choices and Consequences: How to Intervene with Adolescents Who Use Alcohol/Drugs," Jan. 27, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call (601) 948-6262 to register or for more information.

The Healthcaring Center for

In presenting the award to Nunnery, NAHSC officials heralded him "a champion of children." They noted his many years of service to children through BCV, where he now serves as house counsel.

He also was recognized as a founding father of NAHSC, serving on numerous committees, as legal counsel, and president. Also noted was his service through other child welfare organizations, including his current leadership as executive director of the Mississippi Association of Child Care Agencies.

Women will offer: "Siblings: A Kid's View of Babies," Nov. 1, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; "A Lifelong Approach to Shaping Your Child's Sexual Character," Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m.; "NutriNews: Healthy Holiday Choices," Nov. 10, 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; and "Body Image & Self Esteem," Nov. 10, 6 p.m. Call 973-3180 to register.

The Sports Life Fitness Center will offer: D.E.E.P. (Diabetes Exercise and Education Program), Nov. 1, 9 a.m., and Run/Walk Team, Nov. 2, 5:30 p.m. Call 968-1766 to register.

Mississippi College honors alums

Mississippi College recognized several alumni during homecoming festivities Oct. 22. Two alumni were recognized as Alumnus of the Year, three others received the Order of the Golden Arrow award, and four were inducted into the Choctaw Sports Hall of Fame.

Alumnus of the Year awards were presented to Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, and the family of the late Bernard Blackwell, longtime director of alumni affairs at the school.

Order of the Golden Arrow awards were presented to Charles M. Tolbert, sociology professor at

Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Bobby Gene Spell, a Jackson physician and surgeon; and Howard Jenkins Jr., Clinton, executive vice president of Mississippi Farm Bureau Insurance Company, Jackson.

Inducted into the hall of fame were Sherrell R. Marshall of Jackson, William A. Sumrall of Jackson, Alan L. Dukes of Brandon, and Glenda K. Carpenter Holleyman of Glasgow, Mont.

In addition, Van D. Quick, MC vice president for student personnel, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the National "M" Club.

Church-related schools growing across SBC, says recent study

NASHVILLE (ABP) — This fall, an estimated 541 Southern Baptist churches opened their doors to 132,000 students in church-sponsored schools nationwide, according to projections of the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools. These Southern Baptist Christian schools are projected to take in \$300 million this year and spend \$15 million purchasing curriculum.

In the past 18 years, the number of Southern Baptist churches sponsoring schools is believed to

have increased 57%, although precise data is not available.

This mirrors a national trend among Protestant churches, particularly among theologically and politically conservative congregations. The number of Christian schools nationwide is increasing at a rate of about 5% per year, according to Joel Belz, publisher of God's World Publications, a provider of periodical and curriculum materials for Protestant-related schools.

The increase has been fueled

by conservative Christians' concern about problems in public schools and the absence of religious teaching there. A Gallup poll taken earlier this year found that 37% of Americans said they believe their public schools have declined.

Texas Baptists lead the SBC in number of churches sponsoring schools, with an estimated 184 schools. Florida has the second-largest number of SBC church-sponsored schools, an estimated 78.

HEALTHCARING

FOR THE RECORD

Spiritual Foundation, Mission Guide Mississippi Baptist Medical Center

In these times of uncertainty, complexity and dynamic changes in health care, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center remains focused on its service in the Christian healing ministry.

Now, more than ever, we rely on our Baptist heritage, values and mission to help chart MBMC's path toward continued success.

Health care is changing and so are we. And each day brings new challenges and opportunities. Meeting patient, physician and employee needs will always be MBMC's highest priority, though we anticipate positive changes to help improve MBMC's flexibility, introduce new services and extend our continuum of care.

MBMC is ready to meet new challenges — to achieve a higher standard for quality health care services. Through evaluation, prayerful consideration and strategic planning, MBMC is working to best determine how to improve access to our services, while containing costs and continuing our leadership in bringing innovations to the area.

As we strive to serve diverse health care needs, we want you to know that MBMC is guided by a singular vision of clinical and operational excellence to provide a Christian atmosphere for the healing of the mind, body and spirit.

MBMC Mission

Our commitment and dedication to our tradition and foundation is unwavering.

- Our foundation and tradition is the Christian healing ministry.
- Our vision is to be the first choice of patients, physicians and employees.
- Our mission is to serve the community through continuously improving quality medical care, and effective use of education and technology in a personal and compassionate environment.

- Our belief is that each individual is essential to the successful functioning of the team: the board, the employees and physicians. What each person does matters and the collective efforts define Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's success.
- Our people, dedication to Christian healing, responsible stewardship of resources and involvement of the community make Mississippi Baptist Medical Center a special place.

Continuing the Baptist Tradition

Together with physicians and our dedicated staff, MBMC continues to build upon its strong tradition of healthcaring for the whole family.

We appreciate your interest, involvement, prayers and support as MBMC continues to evolve to meet the health care needs of Mississippi Baptists.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

We're healthcaring for the whole family.

Uniform Results of disobedience

By Richard Bradley
1 Samuel 13

What a stormy career Saul enjoyed as Israel's first king. Initial, early successes gave way to pride, rebelliousness, and his final rejection by God. God expects his people to obey him; even kings. God's demand for exclusive loyalty and obedience permits no exemptions. The sad end of this potentially great man ought to lead God's people to develop a lifestyle of obedience to God.

When the Philistines gathered for war against Israel, their number and might frightened the Israelites (vv. 5-7). There is no doubt the desperate nature of the situation. The danger was certainly legitimate: "When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear" (NIV). Saul was not only facing superior numbers and arms, but many of his soldiers had run away and those who were left were literally shuddering with fear. To say that this was an unpleasant and fearful situation would be an understatement.

Saul rashly offered a sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel (vv. 8-9). This act does not represent mere desperation or even great boldness on Saul's part. Samuel was late and Saul took the situation into his own hands by offering the sacrifice himself; clearly an act of disobedience.

What should Saul have done? Just about anything would have been better than doing something which was in direct contradiction to the wishes of God. Saul could have exercised patience; waited upon God. Saul could have prayed; perhaps he did, but not in faith. Saul could have done a lot of things, but it is clear that he did not consider the repercussions of his actions before offering the sacrifice himself instead of waiting for Samuel. Our wrong acts are never justified by the intensity of the situation in which we find ourselves. Are you desperate today? God is the master of even desperate situations!

As soon as Saul had completed the offering, Samuel arrived (v. 10). Isn't this just the way it always is? Just as soon as we have taken the situation into our own hands, taken some rash, desperate action, God shows up. Time and time again we are reminded that if we had just waited a little while longer, if we had just persevered a little more faithfully in prayer, God would have saved the day and met our need.

What kept Samuel? We are not given an answer to this question. Does it really matter? Perhaps, God kept Samuel from coming at the appointed time in order to test Saul. Just perhaps God allowed Samuel to show up when he did in order to remind Saul that he was still in control. If it was a test, Saul failed it miserably. If Samuel's arrival was a reminder by God, it was one that was soon forgotten by Saul. What really matters is not God's possible intentions in all of this, but what Saul did and didn't do. Saul sinned and failed to walk in faith. Two things God does not abide for long.

Samuel condemned Saul for disobeying God's directive (vv. 11-14). He also announced Saul's kingdom would not continue, and declared that God had chosen someone else to lead his people. R.G. Lee, former pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, often preached his famous sermon, "Payday Someday." Sometimes our payday, the day we reap either God's blessing for our works of faith or his disdain for our acts of disobedience, comes sooner than expected. But be sure, there will be a payday someday.

By studying these verses we ought to be reminded that unwise, wrong decisions and acts of disobedience will always have negative consequences. Saul lost a kingdom. What will we lose? What will we miss because of our acts of disobedience? It's not that Saul sinned in ignorance, he knew what he was doing. He was just desperate. Why was he desperate? He was not trusting God and walking in faith!

Bradley is pastor, Handsboro Church, Gulfport.

Bible Book Transformed in Christ

By Raymond Kolb
Ephesians 4:17 — 5:2

Earlier in Chapter 4 Paul had made a strong appeal for unity within the entire church. Then he pointed out the diversity within the unity as God gives different gifts to different members of Christ's body for the good of all. The proper use of all these gifts is necessary to the development into maturity of the entire body of which Christ is the head.

Transformation and renewal in Christ (4:17-24). Earlier Paul has used the term Gentiles to refer to those who are not Jews. Now he uses it to refer to those who are not Christians. Christian Jews and Christian Gentiles are now united as the Church, the body of Christ, the spiritual Israel. Now Paul insists that Christians, the spiritual Israel, should think differently and act differently from the rest of the world. They are now God's chosen people to represent him before the world. Paul uses a number of expressions (4:17-19) to describe human experience without Christ and without Christian influence on one's life. Some of those are futility of thinking, darkened in understanding, separated from the life of God, ignorance, hardening of heart, loss of sensitivity, sensuality, indulgence, impurity, and continued lust for more. By way of contrast Paul says surely you have heard about Jesus the Christ, the kind of life he lived, and what he taught. The life of Jesus was completely without sin. He is our perfect example, as well as our Savior. Now follow the new way of life he lived and taught.

A Brazilian actress had played parts in several pornographic films. Her life could well be described by the horrible list of expressions mentioned in 4:17-19. Then she came to know Jesus and her whole life was changed. Some years later I heard her testimony as she was being interviewed on national television in Brazil. She said "I am disgusted with what I was, but not with what I am." Each Christian is challenged to get rid of the old self with all of its disgusting practices and "to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (4:24).

Guidelines for Christian behavior (4:25-32). Honesty is a characteristic of the Christian life. Speak the truth. Avoid falsehood of any nature. If a fellow Christian who knows me well has any doubts about the truth of what I say, what can be expected of my influence on non-Christians? How can we influence others for good if they do not trust us?

The Christian must exercise self-control. We are all subject to anger at times but we should be able to control the anger rather than allowing it to control us. "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry" (4:26). I can't keep the sun from going down, but I can work on my own attitude rather than letting it get me down and keep me there. If I do not follow this advice I may give the devil a foothold to destroy me and others.

If someone is in the habit of stealing, stop! A Christian should never acquire any kind of property by any dishonest method. Honest, useful work is the right way to get what we need and also the way to help others who are less fortunate than we.

"Do not let any unwholesome (rotten) talk come out of your mouths" (4:29a). Keep the tongue under control. If an evil thought, an indecent word, or something that may hurt someone else comes to your mind, do not let it come from your mouth. Speech should be for building up, not for tearing down.

"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God" (4:30). Avoid bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, and every form of malice. The Spirit of God cannot be happy with such attitudes on our part. On the other hand, attitudes of compassion and kindness are pleasing to him. Willingness to forgive is a must for the Christian. Has God forgiven you of anything? Then forgive others in the same way.

The key to Christian behavior (5:1-2). "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). Children often resemble their parents and often act like them in many ways. Jesus was the exact representation of his Father and our Father. "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (5:1-2).

Kolb is a retired missionary living in Clinton.

Life and Work Respect for life

By Ruth Allen
Genesis 8:5 — 9:17

A few months ago tropical storm Alberto dumped torrential rains on Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. Devastating floods inundated large areas of land. The same statement repeatedly issued forth from the flood victims. "We will be so happy when things dry out and return to normal." This expression probably described the exact feelings of Noah and his family. Normalcy of life is a universal desire. It must have been a gratifying experience to Noah's group as they walked on the dry land. Noah's first act following the flood was to gather his family together for sacrifice and worship to God for his marvelous grace. God was pleased with the family's worship and pronounced a blessing upon Noah and his family. God said, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (9:1).

What a responsibility God placed upon Noah and all of his descendants! God has commanded all people to reproduce and to respect life through the family structure. Harmonious relationships and respect for all life, human and animal, should commence with the teachings taught through the home. Homes which disregard moral and social teachings based on God's commands for peaceful human coexistence produce crimes against human and animal life. Disrespect for life is a natural by-product of homes which disregard God's command to "fill the earth." The earth will abound with all kinds of life, human and animal, when people coexist on God's terms.

Mankind is one of those animals that kill for fun. News stories are broadcast daily with accounts of callous practices of annihilation of animals for sport. The cruel practice of "ethnic cleansing" has been a regular feature on televised news programs. In some instances, the killings in Bosnia have been turned into sporting events before our very eyes. Gradually mankind has become immune to those routine accounts of man's inhumanity to man. This heinous habit of destroying all kinds of life arises from a lack of humane consciousness because of inadequate training in moral and social responsibility. God has intended for each family member to receive God's blessing and then to accept his own responsibility in respect for human and animal life. When people have respect for all life, God has promised to bless the entire earth.

After the flood was over, God promised to bless and multiply all the descendants of Noah and his family. God entered into a covenant with the people he had saved through the flood. A covenant is a two-way agreement between parties. God promised the rainbow as a perpetual reminder of the covenant. The rainbow is the best known of all optical meteorological phenomena, consisting of a colored arch formed opposite the sun on falling raindrops. A rainbow is visible whenever the necessary conditions of a passing shower on one side, and a clear and not too high sun occurs on the other side. The colors are always arranged in a definite order — red, orange, green, blue, indigo, and violet. These colors slightly blend into each other. The rainbow always signals the storm is over, and better things are to come. Setting the bow in the sky is God's guarantee never to destroy the earth by flood. "When the bow is in the clouds, I will look upon it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all the flesh that is upon the earth" (9:6). God's people cannot gaze upon a rainbow without thinking sublime thought of God's greatness, goodness, and glory.

In a small Canadian town, a robin's nest was found in a tree slated to be cut down. When the foreman saw the mother robin on the nest, he ordered that tree to be cut last. The next week he saw three small robins with extended mouths being fed by the mother bird. A few weeks later the birds were gone. He, lifting the nest from the tree, intended to take it home to his small daughter. Something caught his eye in the bottom of the nest. It was a scripture verse written on a small piece of paper, now stained and brown; but the words were readable. The words were, "We trust the living God" (1 Tim. 4:10). Jesus Christ has ascribed value to all mankind, humans, animals, and even sparrows. When people view God's creatures through the eyes of Jesus, God pours out his blessings and keeps his covenant. May all people honor and keep God's covenant!

Allen lives in Jackson.

capsules

CHRISTIANS REPORTED CRUCIFIED IN SUDAN: NAIROBI, Kenya (FMB) — Five Christians have been crucified for their faith since July in Muslim-dominated Sudan, report Anglican sources. Three of the victims, an Anglican priest and two fellow believers, were executed by crucifixion with six-inch nails in the Nuba Mountains, according to eyewitness reports reaching Anglican Bishop Daniel Zindo, chairman of the Nairobi-based New Sudan Council of Churches. "There is no clear reason, except that they are Christians," Zindo told News Network International. "The government is persecuting those who are Christian leaders because they want the people to all become Muslims." Zindo also alleged that widows and orphans of slain Christian men are being sold as slaves in northern Sudan for as little as \$15 each. The Sudanese government has consistently denied such charges of persecution, but similar reports have flooded out of the nation, site of a long civil war between the Muslim north and Christian-animist south.

BPFNA TAPS WOMAN AS PRESIDENT: MEMPHIS (BPFNA) — The board of directors of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA) marked the organization's 10th anniversary during a recent meeting in Puerto Rico by electing the group's second president. Glenda Fontenot of Fort Worth was unanimously chosen as the new president, succeeding George Williamson of Granville, Ohio. She is an ordained Southern Baptist minister who works as a business communications consultant. Fontenot assumes her new position Jan. 1.

KIDNAPPED MISSIONARIES — HOPE FOR RELEASE? BOGOTA, Colombia (FMB) — Six American missionaries kidnapped in Colombia and Panama since early 1993 might have new hope for release if political efforts on their behalf pay off. Ernesto Samper, the new president of Colombia, has called for dialogue with guerrillas believed to be holding the missionaries. Five of the missionaries work with New Tribes Mission; the sixth is with Wycliffe Bible Translators. "Basically, Samper was saying to the guerrillas, '(Releasing the missionaries) is a good opportunity for you to show in earnest that you really do want to talk about peace,'" New Tribes spokesman Dave Zelenak said. A U.S. State Department official confirmed the department's belief that all six missionaries — including the three kidnapped in Panama — are being held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrilla group.

ANTILLIANS SEE SAILORS BAPTIZED ON BEACH: CURAÇAO, Netherlands Antilles (BP) — Antillians stopped swimming Oct. 16 to watch 11 American sailors in white pants and T-shirts march into the sea. On a Caracas Bay beach in eastern Curacao, U.S. Navy Chaplain Dwight Webster of Bremerton, Wash., and his assistant walked down the column, baptizing each man by immersion. The men had become Christians aboard the USS Truxton through the ministry of the American Baptist chaplain. "What a mighty witness for the Lord, for Baptists, and for the United States government," commented Southern Baptist missionary Leo Waldrop, who observed the baptisms along with members of Antiano Baptist Church.

PROMISE KEEPERS, BROTHERHOOD FIND COMMON GROUND: DENVER (BP) — In a meeting of leaders from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Promise Keepers, the two men's organizations discovered complementary agendas designed to strengthen local churches. Both organizations seek to train and equip men to serve God and be the spiritual leaders the Bible calls them to be — at home and in churches. Promise Keepers desires to motivate men to their godly calling. The Brotherhood Commission seeks to equip the local church to effectively minister, teach, and send out its men. "In response to a motion presented at the (SBC) and its assignment to the Brotherhood Commission, our staff has aggressively pursued linkages with Promise Keepers," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president. Promise Keepers, based in Denver, began four years ago under the leadership of Bill McCartney, University of Colorado head football coach. In 1994, more than 250,000 men attended Promise Keepers events.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1994

PM BICOPB UM ITAW, IVL AIQL CVBW UM, TMB
BPQVM PMIZB ZMBIQV UG EWZLA: SMMX UG
KWUUIVLUMVBA, IVL TQDM.

XZWDMZJA NWCZ: NWCZ

This week's clue: Z Equals R.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Nehemiah Four: Four.

Evangelist finds ministry at bass fishing tournaments

ATLANTA (BP) — God seemed to speak on a lake in Alabama. Terry Chupp was in a bass tournament. And the first prize was \$25,000.

Chupp caught six pounds of fish that morning. But he felt an urge to stop for a moment.

"Terry," God seemed to say. "There's your big one. I want that one in the boat."

Chupp was fishing with another contestant. And the pressure was intense. But he set his rod aside and faced the man.

"Joey, you're safe in this boat," Chupp said. "But there are a lot of stumps in this lake. We could hit one and die."

He paused. Rain had caused the lake to rise 11 feet in 36 hours. The water was cloudy.

"I know for certain where I'd be going, to heaven," Chupp continued. "How about you?"

The man looked troubled. "I'd go to hell," he said.

Chupp then explained the gospel. And the man became a Christian.

"I didn't win the tournament," Chupp recounted. And his partner didn't either.

"He won eternal life by accepting Jesus Christ," Chupp said. "There's no \$25,000 prize worth eternal life."

Professional bass fishing is a ministry, said the evangelist from Hebron Church in Dacula, Ga. Chupp was a minister of music five years before becoming a Christian.

"I related salvation to my experience rather than a relationship," he recalled. "My priorities got all messed up."

A revival service got his attention several years ago.

"I had claimed him as my Savior," he said about Jesus, "but I didn't know what lordship was all about."

Chupp invited Christ to take control of his life. And he found opportunities to witness at bass tournaments.

That led to revival services and a chaplain's ministry with the professionals. Ranger boats and several outdoor companies sponsor him.

In the last year he's seen 190 men become Christians.

"He's been a real inspiration to me," said Charlie Reed from Broken Arrow, Okla. "He's probably one of the most gifted people I've seen in leading people to Jesus."

Chupp also competes on the circuit. And that can be stressful with the travel and long hours.

One of fisherman called Chupp at home with some problems. He wanted to know why bad things happen to good people. Business deals had soured for the man and injuries affected his fishing.

Chupp didn't know the man had a gun in one hand. Chupp just explained the hope that can be found in Jesus. And the caller became a Christian.

Later the same man told Chupp how he was about to end his life. Now he's back on the professional tour.

"Happiness comes from a personal relationship with Christ," Chupp said. "Fishing is just like sharing the gospel... no cast, no catch."

Learn to entrust your kids to God

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Learning to trust God for their children's welfare is one of the most important, and sometimes most difficult, aspects of parenting, Sarah Maddox said during a women's conference.

Maddox, from Brentwood, Tenn., led a seminar on how to pray for children during Dayspring, a conference co-sponsored by the Home Mission Board and Alabama Woman's Missionary Union.

While her son and daughter were growing up, Maddox said she found that "my pride and my will stood between my answered prayers. God said, 'Let go of your plans and submit to my perfect

will for your children.'"

Parents also must let go of their fretting, Maddox said. Parents tend to think "if only I had..." or "if only the child had...."

"The 'if only' circle of regret gets you nowhere," Maddox said. "We must move from 'if only' to 'only God.' Believe that only God has the solution."

"We must come to know God. The more we know him, the more we love him, and the more we can trust him with these children of ours."

Maddox suggested the following ways to pray specifically for children, along with related Scripture:

— Pray for their salvation and

never give up, Romans 3:23.

— Pray for deliverance from evil, Matthew 6:13, Psalm 97:10, and Hosea 2:6.

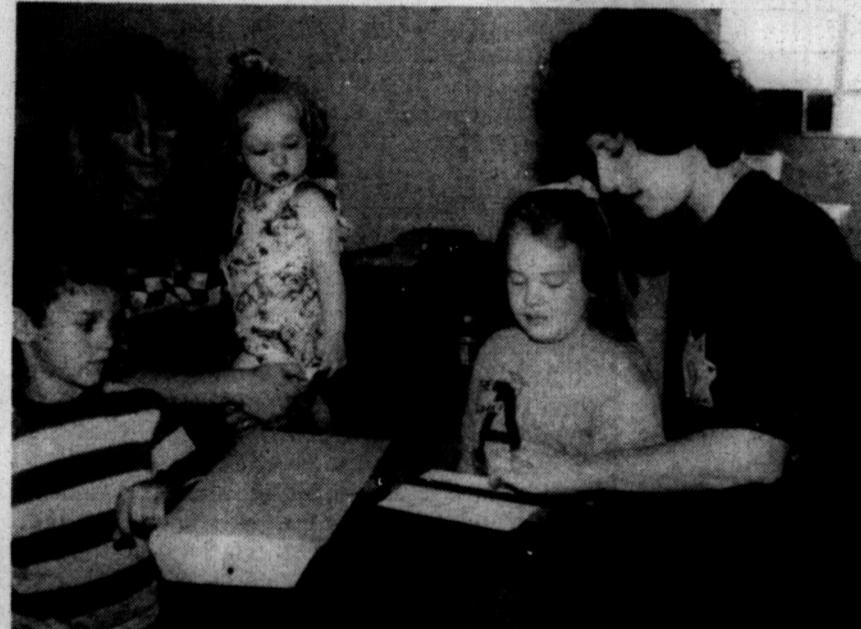
— Pray for children to have discernment in relationships and activities, to discern between good and evil, better and best, Ephesians 3:16 and John 17:15.

— Pray for discipline in their lives so they are not ruled by emotions or instinct, Proverbs 16:32.

— Pray for determination to finish what they start. This is especially needed, Maddox said, because "we live in a day of casual commitment," Colossians 3:17 and 23.

— Pray for them to discover God's will for their lives, Psalm 32:8 and Jeremiah 29:11-13.

— Pray for them to be dedicated to the Lord, Romans 12:1-2.



Improve hosts children's time

Laura Bryant (right) was among volunteers from Improve Church (Marion) who recently hosted a "Morning for the Children" in the church's activities center. The project, sponsored by the church's young adult Sunday School class, featured activities for children, including visits from Bobo the clown, the church's puppet team, the county sheriff's department, and the local volunteer fire department. Stacy Nolan teaches the young adult class; Graham Hales is interim pastor at Improve.

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